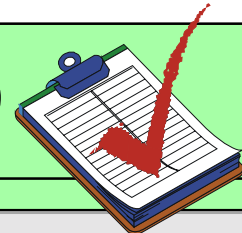


CHS CHECKUP



A publication by and for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services

Aug. 20, 2001

NEWS BRIEFS

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

The CHS Office of Communications welcomes a new staffer, Gwenda Bond. Gwenda has previously worked in the Governor's Communications Office and is a native of Jackson County.



**TIP OF
THE
WEEK**

If you are interested in maximizing your body's absorption of calcium, or if you're already suffering from thinning bones, think about cutting back on 2 things: coffee and alcohol. Alcohol is a diuretic, which means it increases the amount of fluid excreted by the body. The more fluid you lose, the more calcium you lose. Coffee does the same thing. Alcohol, however has another negative effect: It may reduce the rate at which your body reuses the circulating calcium released from your skeleton during the bone-rebuilding process that's continually under way.

Public Health Takes Part In CDC Bioterrorism Exercise

At noon Friday, August 17 the Department for Public Health was advised that downtown Louisville was the site of a possible act of bioterrorism and that dozens of severely ill people were reporting to emergency rooms. Health officers from Jefferson County contacted Dr. Rice Leach and other employees of the Department of Public Health to alert them to the drill and to initiate a national response to the problem. By the time the drill ended on Saturday, Kentucky had become the first state to activate the federal "push pack" pharmacy response and actually receive and disperse containers of medical supplies for community use. The exercise, run by the Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention, was designed to test the ability of federal, state, and local agencies to respond effectively to bioterrorism.

Agencies involved in the exercise included the CDC, the Kentucky Air National Guard at the Louisville Airport, Kentucky State Police, Kentucky Disaster and Emergency Services, Jefferson County Emergency Operations, the Jefferson County Police Department, Health Department, Fire Department, Water and Sewer Services and Emergency Services, the FBI, the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes Occupa-

(Continued on Page 2)

Deputy Secretary Marks Announces Resignation

Deputy CHS Secretary Ann Marks has announced her resignation effective Aug. 31.

Marks, who was named deputy in July 2000, had previously served as director of the Commission for Children With Special Health Care Needs.

Acting CHS Secretary Marcia Morgan credited Marks for using her health care experience to bring changes and improvements to the cabinet. Those improvements include expanding and improving KenPAC, the managed care system in the Department for Medicaid

Services and her continued work with the commission to assist special needs children.

Marks also chaired the House Bill 144 Clinic Subcommittee and assisted the secretary in chairing both the HB 144 and HB 843 commissions.

"This is a tremendous Cabinet! I am proud to have been a part of it, and will remain a strong supporter of its valuable work," Marks said. She plans to take time off to complete the restoration of her old home in Bardstown.



Public Health Has Role In Bioterrorism Drill

(Continued from Page 1)

tional Safety and Health and many others.

The mock situation involved an early morning fire at a downtown hotel that resulted in evacuation of the building, the subsequent discovery of a strange aerosol device, and a threatening note from a known terrorist group claiming to have set off the device. The officials were faced with a scenario of patients presenting symptoms related to gastrointestinal illness and, as the situation progressed, two deaths and over a hundred patients with similar complaints. By late afternoon material taken from the device had been found to contain a form of bacteria known to cause severe respiratory disease. Participants had to make touch decisions on a number of issues, including closing sections of interstate highways, evacuating

people and keeping the public advised without creating panic. Many of the decisions were acted out on paper. However, the primary agencies involved performed the same tasks they would have done in the event of "the real thing." The Governor's security detail, the Community Crisis Response Teams, and many other components of state and local government got telephone calls during the afternoon, evening, and early morning hours and dozens of public servants pulled 24+ hour shifts.

The logistics of moving tons of medical supplies from an out of state storage site to Louisville, repackaging the materials into patient doses, and distributing them throughout Louisville with law enforcement escort were all tested. CDC operational and EIS officers traveled from Atlanta to Louisville,

Dr. Leach reported to the National Guard at Louisville to receive the shipment and oversee certain clinical aspects of its handling, and the state Emergency Operations Center maintained contact throughout the exercise.

By Saturday morning, Kent Gray of the CDC determined that the exercise had been a success. He reported that this is the first time anywhere in the United States that a state had mounted this kind of coordinated effort to assess a potential terrorist situation.

"Kentucky made emergency prepared history last weekend," Dr. Leach said. "Its encouraging to know that so many people can come together in a cooperative fashion when it counts."



Maternal and Child Health Conference Starts Sept. 19

The Kentucky Department for Public Health, Division of Adult and Child Health, announces the 44th Annual Maternal and Child Health Conference entitled "**Achieving Objectives in Maternal and Child Health: What Gets Measured Gets Accomplished**".

The conference will begin on the morning of Sept. 19 with an address by Dr. Peter C. van Dyck, associate administrator for the

Maternal and Child Health Bureau, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services. Conference attendees will learn about Federal Maternal and Child Health objectives and what progress is being made in the health of our maternal and child population. Other topics include Obesity in Children, Women's Health, How People Learn and the Effects of Tobacco on Birth Out-

comes.

Other sessions will cover Infant Mortality; Maternal Health; Measuring Success in Maternal and Child Health; Child Health and Development; Maternal and Child Nutrition and Community-Based Health.

The cost of the conference is \$ 35 for all three days and \$ 45 if you register at the conference. It will be held at the Galt House in Louisville Sept. 19-21.

For more information, call Lorie Wayne Chesnut, at 564-2154.



The CHS Checkup is a newsletter for employees of the Kentucky Cabinet for Health Services. Please direct contributions or comments to the Office of Communications, 502-564-6786. View newsletters at the CHS website at: <http://chs.state.ky.us/> Printed with state funds.



CHS State Fair Booth Is A Real Circus



The CHS booth at the Kentucky State Fair is once again drawing crowds. This year's theme, "Life's A Three Ring Circus: Be Healthy and Perform Well," was aimed at all age groups. In the photo above Sarah Lyons New and Eric Friedlander (green shirts) of the Commission for Children With Special Health Care Needs talk with young visitors. Below left, Carolyn Barnes, a nurse with employee health centers, clowns around with visitors. Below right, people line up for glucose and cholesterol screenings. The booth has received attention in the newspaper and several television programs.